



The challenging budget situation our state faces due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic create serious challenges for legislative leaders and HHSC agency leadership as the agency Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the FY2022-23 biennium moves through the budget process.

As reflected in the Administrator's Statement, HHSC took a restrained approach to developing its funding request, guided by the following principles: 1) maintain essential clinic to services; 2) request funding for only what is necessary to prevent agency operations from breaking; 3) scale requests to the minimum necessary for effectiveness.

Given the magnitude of the budget challenges our state faces, we understand the need for this approach and will continue working with state leaders to ensure the vital mental health, intellectual and developmental disability and substance addiction services are maintained during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

The Mental Health related items in the HHSC LAR include:

- Maintaining mental health treatment capacity for adults and children
- Level funding for Crisis Services
- Continuation of grants for Justice Involved and mental health services at current levels (SB 292 & HB 13)
- SUD Services are maintained at current level
- Placeholder Exceptional Item for continuation of state hospital construction

Unfortunately, the HHSC LAR does not include Exceptional Items for:

- SB 633 "All Texas Access"
- Locally purchased inpatient beds
- Co-occurring BH and IDD focus
- Early psychosis

The Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) related items in the HHSC LAR include:

- Maintaining rate increases from 86th session in base appropriations requested for FY 2022-23
- Exceptional Item 1: To maintain Home and Community Based Services (HCS), Texas Home Living (TxHmL) and ICF/IID service capacity
- Exceptional Item 4: To Increase Waiver capacity in programs HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD
- Exceptional Item 9: Comply with Federal Requirements for Community Integration for Individuals with Disabilities

The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services related items in the HHSC LAR include:

- Maintaining base funding for the FY 2022-23 biennium

**What we need you to do:**

**“Do No Harm”** Legislative leaders must maintain base appropriations and current service capacity for essential community-based services:

- Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Services
  - Crisis Services, including Crisis Intervention Specialists (CIS)
  - Specialized Outpatient Mental Health Services for people with IDD
  - IDD Provider rate enhancements
  - IDD Waiver Programs
- Mental Health Outpatient Treatment Capacity for Adults and Children
- Locally purchased inpatient psychiatric beds and Community Hospitals
- Substance Use Disorder Services
- Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Programs

**Advance 1115 DSRIP Waiver Transition Plan for People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)**

- Establish statewide access to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Directed Payment Program
- Eligibility criteria based on income and functional needs criteria
- Target Population of people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

**Support IDD related HHSC Exceptional Items (EIs) for FY 2022-23 Biennium**